

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09304 201054Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 STE-01 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2925

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9304

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: MILAN SECURITY NEEDS AS VIOLENCE REACHES NEW HEIGHT

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT FOR YOUR INFO MILAN 0751 DATED MAY 17
SENT ACTION ROME

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0751

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: MILAN SECURITY NEEDS AS VIOLENCE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 121819, B. MILAN 0725, C. MILAN 0724,
D) MILAN 0732, E) '75 MILAN 2024, F. ROME 7112

1. WEEK LONG SERIES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MILAN ON
TARGETS THAT HAVE FOR FIRST TIME INCLUDED TWO AMERICAN-
OWNED COMPANIES HAS GREATLY HEIGHTENED OUR ALREADY
SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN OVER SECURITY OF OUR STAFF, PARTICULARLY
IN VIEW OF BRIGATE ROSSE SINGLING OUT OF MULTINATIONS (READ US
FIRMS) IN COMMUNIQUE'S DURING MORO ORDEAL.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE FOUR SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO EMBASSY
AND DEPARTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES (REFTELS).
GIVEN DRAMATIC SERIES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS HERE THAT SHOW
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NO SIGNS OF ABATING AND WHICH HAVE INVOLVED BOTH CHEMICAL
BANK AND HONEYWELL CONTROLS (REF C & D), WE HAVE CONVOKED
POST SECURITY COMMITTEE AND THOROUGHLY REVIEWED ASSESSMENT
OF PROBLEM AND MEANS TO MEET THREAT. MOREOVER, I HAVE
CONFERRED WITH PREFECT MONDAY AND WITH COMMANDING GENERAL
OF CARABINIERI TODAY. IN LIGHT OF THIS REVIEW, WE WISH TO
RENEW APPEAL THAT OUR PROPOSALS BE GIVEN URGENT ATTENTION.

3. OUR MOST LONGSTANDING REQUEST IS FOR ITALIAN-MADE ARMORED VEHICLES TO REDUCE OUR VISIBILITY, INCREASE MANEUVERABILITY AND PROVIDE AS MUCH PROTECTION AS POSSIBLE AGAINST GUNFIRE. DEPARTMENT'S LATEST MESSAGE ON SUBJECT (REF A, RECEIVED HERE MAY 15) ASKS EMBASSY FOR ASSESSMENT OF OUR NEED. WE BELIEVE NEED IS MORE IMMEDIATE NOW THAN AT ANY TIME DURING MANY MONTHS SINCE OUR INITIAL REQUEST SUBMITTED.

4. ANOTHER LONGSTANDING REQUEST IS FOR TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEM FOR OUR OFFICIAL VEHICLES (REF E) AND TO BE LOCATED IN HOMES OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEES. WE NOW HAVE NO MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH OUR VEHICLES TO WARN THEM IN CASE OF DANGER. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN DEMONSTRATORS APPEARED MAY 9 AT TRADE CENTER ENTRANCE JUST BEFORE ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR TO OPEN TRADE CENTER SHOW, TC DIRECTOR HAD NO WAY TO ALERT AMBASSADOR FROM CERTAINLY EMBARRASSING AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. NOR ARE PASSENGERS OR DRIVERS ABLE TO CALL CONSULATE IF UNEXPECTED HAPPENS. AND OUR OFFICERS CANNOT BE REACHED IN EMERGENCY IF TELEPHONES OUT OF SERVICE OR OVERLOADED AS IS FREQUENTLY CASE.

5. WE REALIZE THAT EMBASSY HAS IN PAST BEEN RELUCTANT TO AUTHORIZE TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEM BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT UPON ITS OWN NETWORK. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE QUESTION BEING EXAMINED ONCE MORE IN LIGHT OF HEIGHTENED CONFIDENTIAL

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THREAT HEREAND NEAR CERTAINTY THAT GOI COULD NOT REFUSE AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH SYSTEMS AT CRITICAL MOMENT LIKE THIS.

6. THIRD REQUEST IS FOR GRILLS TO BLOCK TWO ELEVATORS WHICH WE DON NOT USE BUT WHICH CAN BE STOPPED IN SERVICE AREA ON CONSULATE FLOOR. POLICE INSPECTOR RECENTLY CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO THIS GAP IN OUR DEFENSES WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE.

7. OUR FOURTH REQUEST IS FOR PRIVATE GUARD FOR CONSULATE PREMISES (REF B). IN LIGHT OF EMBASSY'S 7112, JUST RECEIVED, WE ARE RE-STUDYING PROPOSALS AND WILL REPLY SEPARATELY.

8. WE WISH NOW TO ADD FIFTH REQUEST - FOR BULLET PROOF VESTS FOR OUR DRIVERS AND ANY OTHER STAFF WHO WANT THEM. DRIVERS HAVE REQUESTED SUCH PROTECTION AND WE BELIEVE IT WISE FOR ANY OFFICERS WHO WOULD IN FACT WEAR SUCH PROTECTION AS WELL. SECOND CHANCE MODEL Y, TWO AND ONE HALF POUNDS, RECOMMENDED BY DEPT OF JUSTICE COSTS ABOUT \$65 EACH.

9. WE BELIEVE THAT RISK HERE TO CONSULATE OFFICERS HAS APPRECIABLY INCREASED HAVING IN MIND THAT TERRORISTS MAY

SOON TURN TO US AS SOURCE OF THEIR HATED IMPERIALIST
MULTINATIONALS AFTER HITTING JOURNALISTS, MANAGEMENT, DC
OFFICIALS, JUDGES AND POLICE. OUR SUGGESTED PROTECTIVE
MEASURES ATTEMPT TO MATCH LOCAL TECHNIQUES WHICH ARE HIT
AND RUN SHOOTINGS, BOMBINGS AND KIDNAPPINGS RATHER THAN
SEIZING AND HOLDING HOSTAGES OR OCCUPYING BUILDINGS AS IN
OTHER COUNTRIES. WE CAN NEITHER GUARANTEE THAT THE VIOLENCE
WILL CONTINUE NOR THAT THE MODUS OPERANDI WILL CONTINUE IN
THIS PATTERN. BUT THAT IS OUR CONSIDERED BEST GUESS AT
THE MOMENT.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT SECURITY
REQUESTS DESCRIBED ABOVE WITH EXCEPTION OF ITEM FOUR ON WHICH WE
RESERVE FINAL JUDGMENT UNTIL WE HAVE GIVEN IT MORE CONSIDERATION.
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FINA UNQUOTE GARDNER

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